



Pediatric Dental Initiative

Great smiles. Great futures.
Together, we make kids smile.™

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First Trip to Central Valley Surgicenter a Success

When 4 year-old Annette Oliveras' parents were presented with the opportunity to be driven to a dental surgery center in the Central Valley, they were happy to give up a Tuesday for the drive. On June 27, 2006, the Oliveras family traveled with the Pediatric Dental Initiative's staff and Healthy Start case manager, Laura Garcia, in a rented charter van to the Central Valley Dental Surgicenter located in Atwater, California. "This type of dental care is difficult to access for families in their area," said PDI's Case Manager, Sandra Echavarria. "It can be very discouraging for them." Although the drive took 4 hours from their home in Lake County, the surgery only lasted 45 minutes to treat Annette for 13 cavities. Her mother, Veronica Oliveras, reported that Annette has recovered, is happy, has no pain and is brushing twice a day. PDI worked with Healthy Start in Lake County to coordinate treatment for Annette. This is PDI's second successful treatment of a patient. In May, PDI coordinated a surgery for Maria Lemus, age 1 ½, with Dr. Elizabeth Van Tassell at the Petaluma Valley Hospital.



Annette after treatment for 13 cavities



The waiting room at the Surgicenter

About PDI. PDI is a non-profit, community-based organization founded by a group of child health advocates to address the unmet oral health needs of children from low-income backgrounds who need anesthesia for dental treatment. PDI's mission is to open a dental surgery center dedicated to serving the oral surgery needs of children in Northern California, regardless of a patient's insurance status or ability to pay. Through dental education and outreach efforts, working with parents and health care providers, PDI hopes to eliminate the pain, suffering and distractions that living with Baby Bottle tooth decay causes. Treatment and education helps build the confidence children need to excel in school and on the playground. For more information about PDI, please visit: www.pedidental.org.

About Baby Bottle Tooth Decay. Baby Bottle Tooth Decay (Early Childhood Caries – ECC) is a major health issue in America today, affecting an estimated 28% of children in California alone, most of whom are children from low-income families with little or no dental insurance. The prevalence of junk food, soda, and juice in children's diets is a major cause of tooth decay, as is poor dental hygiene. Reducing sugar intake, and brushing and flossing daily are important first steps toward healthy teeth. Please contact a dentist for advice.

brush. floss. thrive.™

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